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EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3/12/09
SB SS 19

March 9, 2009

Rep. Kendall Van Dyk, Chairman
House Committee on Fish, Wildlife & Parks

RE: Opposition to SJ 19

Dear Chairman Van Dyk:

Please accept this letter in opposition to SJ 19 for inclusion in the record for the upcoming hearing later this week.

I am writing as a concerned citizen but, also, primarily as a hunter who has hunted in the CMR National Wildlife Refuge off and on since the 1970s. My main reasons for opposing SJ 19 are that it is unnecessary and that it sends the wrong signal at a time when we need to bring people together rather than splitting them apart.

The CMR is already doing the things called for in the resolution. The fundamental principle for management under the 1997 Enabling Act is the enhancement of wildlife, which is precisely what the refuge is doing under both current management and future management as proposed in the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). The six conservation districts that surround the refuge are already intimately involved with the CCP as well they should be. In fact, the districts have a privileged position as a "cooperating agency" so that their representatives can participate in planning meetings that are otherwise closed to the public.

As a hunter I take strong exception to the implication that refuge management is causing conflicts between elk numbers and private land that borders the refuge. The real conflict is because some landowners deny hunting access to private land thereby preventing elk harvest. In no way is the CMR responsible for this problem.

The Fish & Wildlife Service is doing an outstanding job of working with the various publics in management and resource planning. If it ain't broke don't fix it. Please deny passage of S.J. 19. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bill Cunningham